

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 TRSE-00 /072 W
-----102625 182159Z /64

R 181500Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5202
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6479

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, WB, GW, GE, US, UK, UR, FR
SUBJ: FRG/GDR RELATIONS

REF: BONN 11537

1. DURING JULY 15 DISCUSSION WITH CHARGE, FRG PERMREP CHIEF GAUS HAD FOLLOWING TO SAY ON SCHMIDT/HONECKER LETTER AND FRG/GDR RELATIONS. SCHMIDT'S LETTER WAS NOT DELIVERED BY GAUS, THE CHANNEL WAS THE "WELL-KNOWN EAST BERLIN LAWYER" (I.E. VOGEL). WITHMUT SAYING EXPLICITLY THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER, GAUS INDICATED IT WAS GENERAL IN NATURE, URGING THAT THE SOUNDINGS GET UNDERWAY SOON IN ORDER TO AVOID FURTHER SPECULATION (IN THE FRG) ABOUT THE STATE OF FRG/GDR RELATIONS.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, GAUS SAID BONN HAD BECOME THE PRISONER OF ITS OWN "PROPAGANDA" IN THAT OFFICIAL CIRCLES HAD BEEN SAYING OVER THE PAS COUPLE OF MONTHS THAT THE
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"SOUNDINGS" WOULD BEGIN "NEXT WEEK," "SOON," ETC. AND NOTHING HAD HAPPENED. THE PURPOSE OF THE LETTER, WHICH IN GAUS' VIEW SCHMIDT DID NOT WANT TO WRITE, WAS TO TRY TO GET THE SOUNDINGS STARTED IN ORDER TO AVOID THE FEELING IN THE FRG THAT EAST-WEST GERMAN RELATIONS WERE DETERIORATING. GAUS DOES NOT CONSIDER THE SCHMIDT LETTER AS THE START OF THE SOUNDINGS.

3. GAUS DOUBTED THAT THE SOUNDINGS WOULD BEGIN BEFORE SEPTEMBER, EVEN THOUGH HONECKER WILL BE BACK FROM HIS SOVIET VACATION IN AUGUST. GAUS MADE REFERENCE TO A SCHMIDT-HONECKER SUMMIT MEETING, IMPLYING THAT THE EAST GERMANS HAD SUGGESTED SUCH A MEETING IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOUNDINGS. HE ADDED QUICKLY THAT HE SAW NO PURPOSE IN SUCH A MEETING, PARTICULARLY BEFORE RESOLUTION OF SOME OF THE ITEMS TO BE COVERED IN THE SOUNDINGS AND SUBSEQUENT DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS.

4. GAUS SAID HE HAD RECEIVED "HINTS" FROM EAST GERMAN SOURCES THAT THE GDR MIGHT BE WILLING TO SET ASIDE THE ELBE ASPECT OF THE BORDER DEFINITION PROBLEM, BUT THIS WOULD DEPEND IN PART ON HOW THE SOUNDINGS/NEGOTIATIONS ON OTHER ISSUES PROGRESS. HE THOUGHT SOMETHING COULD BE WORKED OUT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, AND THAT THE DOCUMENT TO BE SIGNED WOULD BE LESS THAN A TREATY AND SIGNED AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL.

4. COMMENT: GAUS' REFERENCE TO A POSSIBLE SCHMIDT-HONECKER SUMMIT MEETING IS NEW TO US. AS A GDR INITIATIVE IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY SUIT GDR PURPOSES MORE THAN THOSE OF THE FRG AT THIS STAGE. WE NOTE THAT GAUS DID NOT COMMENT ON THE REASONS FOR THE RECENT DELAY IN BEGINNING THE FRG/GDR OFFICIAL SOUNDINGS. WHILE SCHMIDT'S LETTER

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IS PERHAPS INTENDED TO IMPLY THAT THE GDR HAD BEEN TEMPORIZING, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME INDICATIONS THAT THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT HAS ITSELF DELAYED THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL REASONS, INCLUDING THE PERCEIVED POSSIBILITY OF GDR MEASURES ON THE BERLIN TRANSIT ROUTES TO HINDER PLANNED JUNE 17 DEMONSTRATIONS IN WEST BERLIN. IN GENERAL, GAUS' ATTITUDE ON FRG/GDR RELATIONS SEEMED TO BE ONE OF WAIT AND SEE, WITH A LARGE DOSE OF FRUSTRATION ABOUT THE FRG PRESS LEAKS AND DELAYS IN GETTING THINGS ROLLING. POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770256-0462
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From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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